



**Lincoln Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.**

P.O. Box 628  
Eureka, MT 59917  
Telephone: (406) 889-3301  
Fax: (406) 889-3874  
www.lincolnelectric.org

March 1, 2000

Hearing Officer  
Federal Caucus Fish Hearing  
Outlaw Inn  
Kalispell, Montana

Sir:

My name is John F. Hossack, an elected board member of Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc., in Eureka, Montana and the President of the Western Montana Generation and Transmission. Bonneville Power Administration furnishes the power to our cooperative, and our ratepayers have contributed generously to Salmon recovery efforts over the years. We are disappointed in the useless expenditure of dollars over the years with so few results.

The issue is not dam-removal. The issue is salmon recovery! This recovery should be accomplished in a cost-effective manner. Dam removal is not the panacea or "Silver bullet" that certain elements would lead you to believe.

There are no scientific studies which indicate dam removal would prevent salmon for extinction. The impact on the northwest would be horrendous, not including the cost. The cost to future generations in lost opportunities makes the dam removal option unacceptable.

The recovery plan should have a basis in scientific facts, not in personal bias, personal gratification, and political expediency. It should establish clear and achievable goals, maximize the chance of recovery, recognize the natural actions in the ocean, and the needs of other countries may have a great impact on salmon recovery. This removal proposal appears to be more of an opportunistic approach to dam removal rather than focusing on salmon recovery.

Statistically the survival rates for salmon smolts is as high now as it was before the dams were built. Direct survival of transported migrants is estimated at 98% plus, and that migration through the dams and reservoirs is faster than free flowing reaches above the dams.

My plea is to keep the dams in place. Consider the needs of future generations, and use of the best scientific methods to recover the salmon. A little common sense exuding from our responsible federal agencies would not be remiss at this point.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John F. Hossack".

John F. Hossack  
PO Box 352  
Eureka MT 59917  
406/296-2374

MAR 14 2000